



Communiqué

19 June 2015

The Psychology Board of Australia (the Board) is established under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).

This communiqué highlights key issues from the 64th meeting of the Board on 19 June 2015.

At each meeting, the Board considers a wide range of issues, many of which are routine and are not included in this communiqué.

Health profession agreement

Under the National Law, the National Boards and AHPRA work in partnership to implement the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme), each with specific roles and responsibilities.

The guiding principles of the National Law require the National Scheme to operate in a 'transparent, accountable, efficient, effective and fair way'.

Every year each of the National Boards and AHPRA publish a health profession agreement that details the fees payable by health practitioners and the services provided by AHPRA that enable the National Boards to carry out their functions under the National Law.

In order to inform its review of the health profession agreement the Psychology Board of Australia reviewed and signed off on its 2015/16 budget and work plan.

The Board was then able to review and agree to the health profession agreement for the 2015/16 financial year. The 2015/16 health profession agreement will be published on the [Board's website](#) under *About psychology* in the near future.

Update on Provisional registration standard and the guidelines for the 4+2 internship program

The Board has published submissions that were received in response to the recent public consultation on proposals to update the *Provisional registration standard* and the guidelines for the 4+2 internship program. The submissions are available under [Past consultations on the Board's website](#).

The feedback is currently being reviewed and will be considered by the National Board over the coming months. Overall, feedback from the profession and the public has been positive. However, further work is being done to resolve some of the outstanding concerns from government.

This further work has the potential to delay the publication of any new guidelines. Thus individuals should not delay the commencement of a 4+2 internship program waiting for the new guidelines. The Board will implement arrangements to support transition to the new guidelines.

Online search for a supervisor improved

Improvements to the online search for a supervisor have been launched by the Psychology Board of Australia (the Board).

The improved [online search](#) gives users access to:

- a new secure messaging system for contacting supervisors
- a better search results display, and
- a function that allows for a search of surrounding suburbs within a specified distance.

The online search lists all Board-approved supervisors and search results show whether a supervisor is 'available' or 'not available' to be contacted. The 200 record limit for search results has been removed and users will see every single match for the selected search criteria.

A new secure messaging system helps to protect supervisors' privacy by removing email addresses from the website and extra security measures ensure that supervisors receive only genuine enquiries from real people

More information about the online search for a supervisor improvements has been emailed to all Board-approved supervisors.

FAQ for both search users and supervisors are published on the [Find a supervisor page](#).

Psychology Regulation Meetings

The Board continues to meet with senior members of the profession and community.

This month the Board welcomed the Chairs and Deputy Chairs from the four Regional Boards of the Psychology Board of Australia. The meeting discussed common issues in registration and notifications across the country, and overviewed recent developments in policy and the progress in the development of new accreditation and registration standards occurring in the scheme.

Public forum – Darwin

The Board continues holding public forums with the next to be held on Thursday, 30 July 2015 in Darwin.

Topics to be covered include public protection, professional standards, national psychology examination, supervision and supervisor training, international psychology competencies, practitioner audit, notifications and complaints management.

Invitations have been sent by email to all Northern Territory registrants.

Professor Brin Grenyer
Chair
Psychology Board of Australia

25 June 2015